



moderate current over sand and gravel bottoms. Females deposit about 64,000 eggs.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

quillback

Carpoides cyprinus

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Cypriniformes
Order:	Catostomidae

Features

The quillback has a brown back with silvery reflections. The sides are tinged golden yellow with dark edged scales. Its belly is white with large scales. The appearance of the quillback varies widely and it often is misidentified as other carpsuckers. The most notable characteristic is the lack of a nipple-like projection at the middle of the lower lip. Adults are commonly 12 to 17 inches long and weigh one to three pounds.

Natural History

The quillback prefers moderately clear highly productive streams that contain large deep pools adjacent to stable gravel or rubble bottoms. It adapts readily to other habitats and often inhabits slow flowing streams, natural lakes, and river impoundments. It eats primarily bottom ooze, plant materials, and aquatic insect larvae. Quillback are early spring spawners and prefer shallow areas in